

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims reflects all claim amendments and replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Material to be inserted is in **underline**, and material to be deleted is in ~~strikeout~~ or (if the deletion is of five or fewer consecutive characters or would be difficult to see) in double brackets [[]]. Any cancellations are without prejudice.

1. (Amended) An exhaust pipe collecting structure for a multi-cylinder engine unit having multiple cylinders, in which exhaust pipes extend from at least four cylinders of the multiple cylinders and are collected into one exhaust passage at a location downstream in a flow of exhaust gases, the structure comprising:

a first exhaust pipe group and a second exhaust pipe group each of which is comprised of two exhaust pipes selected from four exhaust pipes respectively connected to the four cylinders **at upstream end portions thereof;**

a first exhaust sub-collecting pipe cast integrally with the first exhaust pipe group **and configured to collect the first exhaust pipe group to form one exhaust passage;**

a second exhaust sub-collecting pipe cast integrally with the second exhaust pipe group **and configured to collect the second exhaust pipe group to form another exhaust passage;**

a first joint portion ~~located~~ **cast integrally** at a downstream end portion of the first exhaust sub-collecting pipe; and

a second joint portion ~~located~~ **cast integrally** at a downstream end portion of the second exhaust sub-collecting pipe, wherein

the first joint portion and the second joint portion are **separably** joined to each other **by a fastening device** ~~to allow the exhaust gases discharged from the four exhaust pipes to be led into~~

~~one exhaust passage~~ such that the exhaust passage of the first exhaust sub-collecting pipe and the exhaust passage of the second exhaust sub-collecting pipe are collected together into a common exhaust passage at the first and second joint portions.

2. (Amended) The exhaust pipe collecting structure according to Claim 1, wherein the first joint portion has a first semicylindrical peripheral wall having an opening opened toward the second joint portion with a ~~parting line~~ joint face defining the opening and extending along a direction of the flow of the exhaust gases,

the second joint portion has a second semicylindrical peripheral wall having an opening opened toward the first joint portion with a ~~parting line~~ joint face defining the opening and extending along a direction of the flow of the exhaust gases, and

the first and second semicylindrical peripheral walls are joined at the joint faces thereof to be formed into the one cylindrical exhaust passage such that ~~an~~ the opening of the first joint portion and ~~an~~ the opening of the second joint portion face each other ~~and the direction of the flow of exhaust gases of the first joint portion corresponds with the direction of the flow of exhaust gases of the second joint portion.~~

3. (Original) The exhaust pipe collecting structure according to Claim 2, further comprising a rubber tube that covers an outer periphery of the first and second semicylindrical peripheral walls that are joined to face each other.

4. (Amended) An exhaust pipe collecting structure for a multi-cylinder engine unit having multiple cylinders, in which exhaust pipes extend from at least four cylinders of the

multiple cylinders and are collected into one exhaust passage at a location downstream of the exhaust pipes in a flow of exhaust gases, the structure comprising:

a first exhaust pipe group and a second exhaust pipe group each of which is comprised of two exhaust pipes selected from four exhaust pipes respectively connected to the four cylinders **at upstream end portions thereof;**

a first exhaust sub-collecting pipe cast integrally with the first exhaust pipe group, **and configured to collect two exhaust pipes of the first exhaust pipe group to integrally form one exhaust passage;**

a second exhaust sub-collecting pipe cast integrally with the second exhaust pipe group, **and configured to collect two exhaust pipes of the second exhaust pipe group to integrally form another exhaust passage;**

a first joint portion located **cast integrally** at a downstream end portion of the first exhaust sub-collecting pipe; and

a second joint portion located **cast integrally** at a downstream end portion of the second exhaust sub-collecting pipe, **the second joint portion being arranged in parallel with the first joint portion; and** ~~the first and second joint portions respectively having outer walls joined to each other to allow exhaust passages of the first and second joint portions to be defined by the outer walls, wherein~~

~~the first joint portion and the second joint portion are joined to each other to allow the first and second exhaust sub-collecting pipes to be integral with each other as seen from outside,~~

~~an exhaust gas discharged from the first exhaust pipe group is led into the exhaust passage of the first joint portion and an exhaust gas discharged from the second exhaust pipe~~

~~group is led into the exhaust passage of the second joint portion, and~~

~~exhaust passages inside the joint portions are arranged adjacently~~

a connecting tube located downstream of the first and second joint portions,
for allowing the exhaust gases flowing through the exhaust passages inside the first and
second joint portion to be led into a common exhaust passage;

wherein the first joint portion, the second joint portion, and the connecting
tube are separably joined by a fastening device.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Amended) The exhaust pipe collecting structure according to Claim ~~[[5]]~~ **4**, wherein the connecting tube is ~~cast by a mold with a two-part parting line~~ **includes two parts having a joint surface at which the two parts are joined to each other, the joint surface** extending along a longitudinal direction of the connecting tube.

7. (Original) The exhaust pipe collecting structure according to Claim 6, wherein the first and second exhaust sub-collecting pipes and the connecting tube have double-walled structures to have cooling passages between walls.

8. (Amended) An exhaust pipe collecting structure for a multi-cylinder engine unit having multiple cylinders, in which exhaust pipes extend from **at least four** cylinders of the multiple cylinders and are collected into one exhaust passage at a location downstream ~~of the~~ exhaust pipes in a flow of exhaust gases, the structure comprising:

an exhaust manifold having an upstream end portion which is connected to the cylinders and including a plurality of exhaust passages corresponding to exhaust ports of the cylinders, respectively;

a connecting tube; and connected to a downstream end of the exhaust manifold, the connecting tube including a plurality of connecting exhaust passages communicating with the plurality of exhaust passages of the exhaust manifold and being merged into the one exhaust passage at a location inside the connecting tube;

wherein at least a downstream end portion of the exhaust manifold includes the exhaust passages which are arranged in two lines and forms an integral tube; and

wherein a casting parting plane of the exhaust manifold is provided between the two lines of the exhaust passages. ~~an exhaust manifold attached on the connecting tube, the exhaust manifold including:~~

~~a first exhaust sub-collecting pipe and a second exhaust sub-collecting pipe located on downstream portions of exhaust pipes extending from the cylinders, the first and second exhaust sub-collecting pipes being configured to have internal independent exhaust passages of the exhaust gases flowing from the exhaust pipes, the first and second exhaust sub-collecting pipes being integral with each other at least at their joint portions as seen from outside; and~~

~~a first water jacket formed at the joint portions to have a water flow cross-section elongate in a direction perpendicular to a casting parting plane forming a boundary of the first and second exhaust sub-collecting pipes as seen in a cross-sectional view.~~

9. (Amended) The exhaust pipe collecting structure according to Claim 8, wherein the

multiple cylinders are four cylinders[[,]].

~~the first exhaust sub-collecting pipe is configured to have internal independent exhaust passages of the exhaust pipes of two cylinders selected from the four cylinders, and~~

~~the second exhaust sub-collecting pipe is configured to have internal independent exhaust passages of the exhaust pipes of the remaining two cylinders,~~

~~the first water jacket is formed at the joint portions where the first and second exhaust sub-collecting pipes are integral with each other, to have the water flow cross section that is elongate in a direction from a region between the two exhaust pipes of the first exhaust sub-collecting pipe to a region between the two exhaust pipes of the second exhaust sub-collecting pipe so as to cross the casting parting plane forming the boundary of the first and second exhaust sub-collecting pipes as seen in a cross-sectional view.~~

10. (Amended) The exhaust pipe collecting structure according to Claim 9, wherein the exhaust pipe collecting structure **exhaust manifold** is integrally cast by locating the casting parting plane of the exhaust pipe collecting structure **exhaust manifold** within one continuous plane.

11. (Amended) The exhaust pipe collecting structure according to Claim [[8]] **9, wherein the exhaust manifold includes a first water jacket formed therein so as to substantially define two groups of the exhaust passage of the exhaust manifold at a connecting portion between the exhaust manifold and the connecting tube; and [[,]]**

wherein the connecting tube comprises includes:

~~a plurality of connecting exhaust passages communicating with the exhaust pipes~~

~~of the exhaust manifold and being merged into a single exhaust passage; and~~

a second water jacket extending from the connecting portion between the exhaust manifold and the connecting tube to a position upstream of the single one exhaust passage so as to substantially define two groups of the connecting exhaust passages.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Amended) The exhaust pipe collecting structure according to Claim 11[[12]], wherein the second water jacket of the connecting tube is configured to cross the first water jacket of the exhaust manifold at center portions in cross-sections of the exhaust manifold and the connecting tube.

~~the first water jacket is formed in part of the exhaust sub-collecting pipes so as to substantially define exhaust passages of the exhaust sub-collecting pipes as seen in a cross-sectional view, and~~

~~at a connecting portion between the exhaust manifold and the connecting tube, the first water jacket of the exhaust manifold is connected to the second water jacket of the connecting tube such that a longitudinal axis of a water flow cross-section of the first water jacket of the exhaust manifold crosses a longitudinal axis of a water flow cross-section of the second water jacket of the connecting tube.~~

14. (Amended) The exhaust pipe collecting structure according to Claim 13, wherein the second water jacket and the first water jacket respectively have increased water flow sections at the center portion. ~~a water flow portion where the water flow cross-section of the~~

~~first water jacket of the exhaust manifold and the water flow cross section of the second water jacket of the connecting tube overlap with each other with their longitudinal axes crossing each other is enlarged.~~